

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 11-22 were in the application, claims 11-22 were cancelled in favor of new claims 23-34.

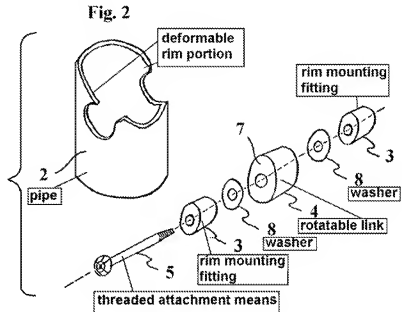
## **INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

The applicants' attorney wishes to thank the examiner for his taking the time to meet and discuss the present application.

At the interview, a sample of a device constructed in accordance with the present invention was displayed, to illustrate in particular how the deformed rim applies a compressive force such that tightening or loosening the threaded attachment means varies the deformation of the rim portions and adjusts the compressive and frictional forces exerted on the rotatable link to adjust the ease of rotating the rotatable link. The generally broad language of the claims was also discussed, as well as the need for more concise terms to clarify the applicants' invention. A proposed new set of claims was submitted for review by the examiner, and the applicant appreciates the examiners' comments concerning additional clarifying language, which has been incorporated into new claims 23-34.

## THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

New Claim 23 uses more conventional language to describe the various claim elements, as shown in the following amended Fig. 2, the assembly of the threaded attachment means, rim mounting fittings, and rotatable link forming a unit that is mounted in the slotted openings in the pipe rim by fixing the rim mounting fittings to the deformable rim portions. Consequently, the "first objects" are claimed by their function as rim mounting fittings, the "second object", also described by its function as the rotatable link, the "apertured disks" now



referred to as "washers", etc., and it is believed the chosen claim language is fully supported by the description and drawings in the application, and no new matter is involved in this amendment.

Claims 11-13 and 16-22 were rejected as being anticipated by Benson, U.S. patent no. 4,135,372. As these claims have been cancelled, the rejection is now moot. Moreover, in connection with new claims 23 and 32, Benson clearly fails to have a "pipe" with slotted openings forming deformable rim portions, and no rim mounting fittings fixed thereto. There is no anticipation as there is no "pipe" containing opposed openings in a rim having deformable portions which exert a compressive force to a rotatable link, as claimed above. As each and every element of new claims 23-34 are not found in Benson, new claims 23-34 are not anticipated thereby.

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected as being obvious over Benson. However, claims

14 and 15 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 26 and 27, which are dependant claims which contain all of the limitations of independent claim 23 therein. As discussed above, Benson fails to disclose the use of a pipe with deformable rim portions which exert a compressive force on the rim mounting fittings which engage the rotatable link, and absent some disclosure related to the structures and functions defined in new claims 26 and 27, claims 26 and 27 are not rendered obvious over Benson.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. However, should the examiner believe that direct contact with the applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_/WJS/\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Sapone  
Registration No. 32,518  
Attorney for Applicant(s)